

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 139

### Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Medina, Melendez, Muratsuchi, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)*

April 22, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139—Relative to Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 139, as amended, Ridley-Thomas. Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month

This measure would designate the month of April 2014 as Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease impacts one million people in
- 2 the United States and its prevalence is expected to rise in parallel

1 with increasing life expectancy, with projections estimating a 100  
2 percent increase in the number of people affected by 2030; and

3 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive  
4 neurodegenerative condition most commonly characterized by  
5 motor symptoms such as tremor and rigidity. Patients also suffer  
6 from nonmotor symptoms, such as sleep disturbances and  
7 depression, all of which can significantly affect the patient's daily  
8 activities and motor functions; and

9 WHEREAS, Life expectancy is reduced for all onset ages, with  
10 disease progression leading to severe disability and possible  
11 confinement to a wheelchair or a bed; and

12 WHEREAS, Although treatments are initially effective in  
13 treating symptoms, 50 to 90 percent of patients develop motor  
14 complications, such as "wearing off," early morning akinesia,  
15 delayed response, suboptimal response or no response, freezing  
16 episodes, and dyskinesias; and

17 WHEREAS, Caring for Parkinson's disease patients is a task  
18 that becomes increasingly complex and demanding as the severity  
19 of the disease progresses, until caring for the patient becomes the  
20 caregiver's main or almost only activity, resulting in significant  
21 caregiver burden; and

22 WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of  
23 the realities of life with Parkinson's disease will allow the  
24 community at large to better support people who struggle with the  
25 challenges of this debilitating condition; and

26 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the  
27 Parkinson's Action Network, and the Parkinson's Disease  
28 Foundation are nonprofit organizations; and

29 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the  
30 Parkinson's Action Network, and the Parkinson's Disease  
31 Foundation have joined together to promote Parkinson's disease  
32 awareness and support, including improved education, knowledge,  
33 research, and treatment; and

34 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the  
35 Parkinson's Action Network, and the Parkinson's Disease  
36 Foundation are urging patients and their supporters, health care  
37 providers, and the general public to demonstrate that they care by  
38 sharing the road patient's walk, the facts about Parkinson's disease,  
39 and the ever growing awareness about the etiology of the disorder  
40 and potential treatments; and

1 WHEREAS, The community's focus on Parkinson's disease  
2 and its impact on patients' lives will help give hope for a better  
3 future for people with Parkinson's disease; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of  
6 April 2014 as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, and urges  
7 all citizens to support the search for a cure and to assist those  
8 individuals and families who deal with this disabling disease on a  
9 daily basis; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
11 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.